



## News From Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis 32<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District of California

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### **SOLIS PRESENTS \$700,000 FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

**To help save lives, create jobs, encourage public transit & reduce traffic congestion**

**EL MONTE, CA-** Today, Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (CA-32) presented a \$700,000 check to the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink) for safety improvements at the Ramona Boulevard grade crossing on Metrolink's San Bernardino Line in El Monte, California. Solis secured the grant through a large federal assistance bill for fiscal year 2005 (Public law 108-447).

"During this time of growth, our community will depend more and more on Metrolink and public transportation. I am pleased that I was able to secure funds that complement Metrolink's efforts to ensure the safety of pedestrians and commuters," said Congresswoman Solis. "Furthermore, this project will create new jobs in our region."

The \$700,000 will be used for improvements to increase commuter safety, prevent unsafe railroad tracks crossing and decrease the risk of pedestrian accidents at the El Monte Metrolink Station. These improvements include the separation of the Metrolink and Union Pacific railroad tracks and construction of a new underpass for trains to pass through to reduce the risk of collisions. The El Monte station is one of Metrolink's busiest and the crossing at Ramona Boulevard and Cypress Street experiences heavy rail and truck traffic. Freight and pedestrian traffic is expected to double in the future.

According to the Department of Transportation, the state of California led the nation in the number of pedestrians killed while walking on railroad tracks in 2004, with more than 86 fatalities and 34 people killed at grade crossings. Since 1995, Metrolink's four stations-Cal State LA, El Monte, Baldwin Park and Covina- have had 14 incidents, two of which resulted in fatalities.

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